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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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27 July 1966

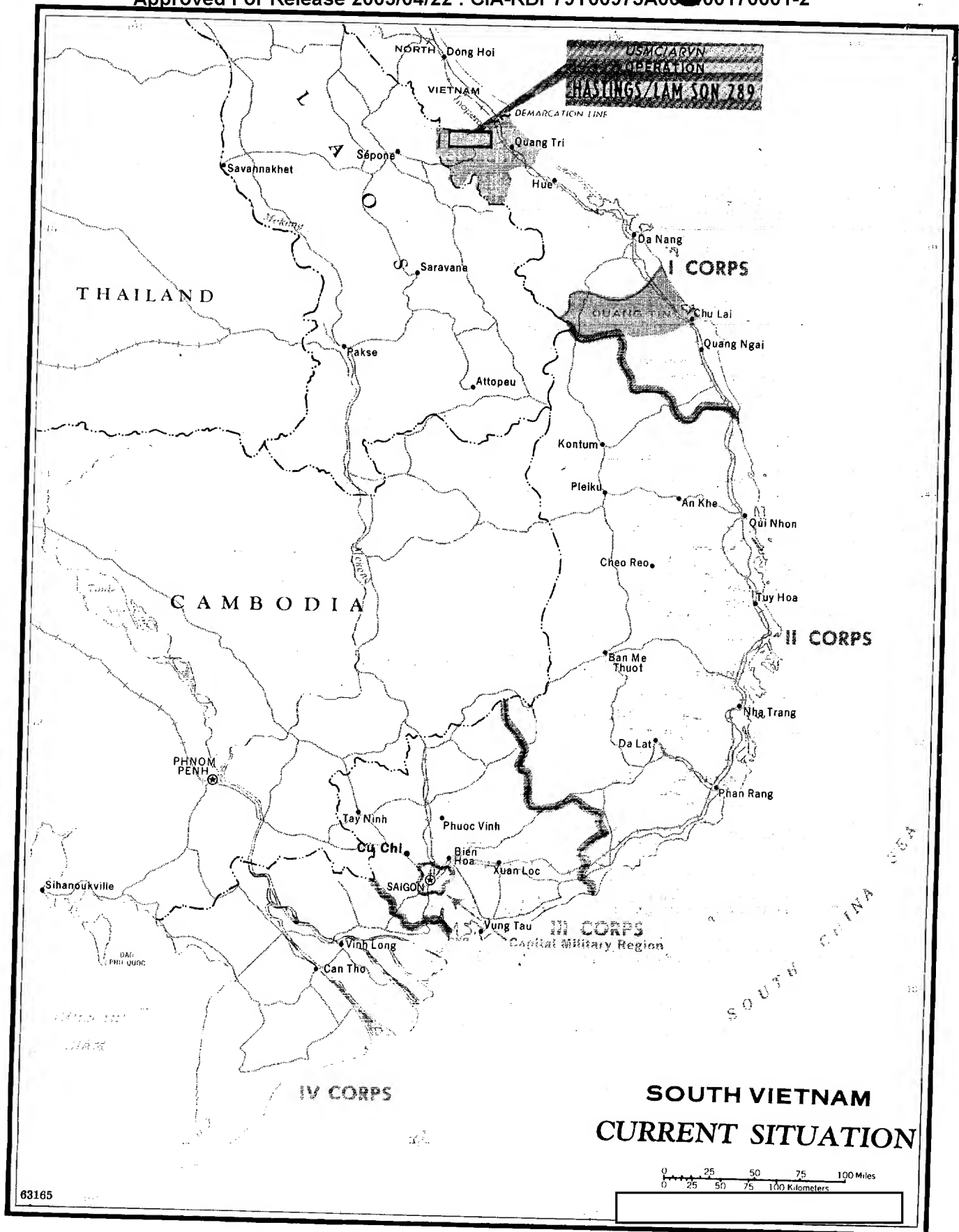
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Viet Cong guerrilla activity may be intensifying in the Saigon area in a move to relieve pressure against Communist forces in Quang Tri Province where units are suffering heavy losses from Operation HASTINGS/LAM SON 289.

The headquarters of the US 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi was attacked on the evening of 26 July and again early this morning. Approximately 175 rounds of mortar and recoilless rifle fire landed throughout the base area. Preliminary reports indicate no fatalities, but 29 Americans were wounded. Little damage was done to the base which is located about 18 miles northwest of Saigon. (see map)

Allied forces have stepped up "harassing and interdiction" artillery barrages against Viet Cong positions in the area surrounding Saigon in an effort to counter recently increased Communist activity.

MACV has accepted another North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regiment--the 3rd Regiment--in South Vietnam.

The 3rd Regiment is subordinate to the 620th Division and has a strength of 1,500 men. It is located in Quang Tin Province and is the nineteenth confirmed NVA regiment in South Vietnam. (see map)

The 31st NVA Regiment has been dropped by MACV from its order of battle. With this change the total confirmed North Vietnamese strength in South Vietnam stands at 41,360 men. In addition, there are another 1,100 men carried in the order of battle in the probable or possible categories.

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Cambodian Developments: Cambodia's Prince Sihanouk in a 20 July speech--only recently available--has indicated that he is willing to sign a border agreement with the Viet Cong representative presently in Phnom Penh. He also stated that he would recognize the Viet Cong (National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam) as "representatives of the South Vietnamese people and nation" and exchange ambassadors with North Vietnam.

The Cambodian leader, on the other hand, has insisted that these moves are contingent upon the Communists signing the agreements he is offering which call for their recognition of his claims to certain islands in the Gulf of Siam and of the Cambodian version of the South Vietnamese - Cambodian border. There has been no hint by Hanoi or the Liberation Front as to the Communist attitude toward the current negotiations.

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*Cuba: Fidel Castro's annual 26 July speech followed familiar themes and contained no major surprises.

Most of Castro's speech was devoted to international affairs, with the usual predictably bitter anti-US diatribes. He again exhorted Latin American extremists to follow the "Cuban example" and bring revolution to their countries.

However, Castro's remarks reveal his renewed disenchantment with "pseudorevolutionaries" who "preach the path of electioneering" in Latin America rather than launching armed struggle. These barbs were clearly aimed at the regular Latin American Communist parties and suggest that relations between them and the Castro regime have once again become strained over revolutionary tactics to be employed in the hemisphere.

Castro again attacked Chilean President Frei as an imperialist lackey, and pointedly "warned" other "socialist countries" that Cuba would be "injured" if they traded with Chile. A Soviet trade mission is currently in Santiago.

Castro reiterated earlier pledges to send military personnel to Vietnam if Hanoi requests such aid.

The Cuban leader devoted little time to discussing the domestic situation on the island and did not rebut the sensationalist rumors which have been circulating regarding his health and power position. [REDACTED]

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*Congo (Kinshasa): The situation in Kisangani remains calm but tense following the suspension of negotiations yesterday.

President Mobutu last Monday assured the leader of the mutineers that they would not be court-martialed for their earlier actions. However, the paradrop of ammunition and supplies to Congolese army units in Kisangani yesterday has led the mutineers to put off further negotiations with Premier Mulamba until tomorrow. Mulamba reportedly has been forced to seek the protection of those mercenary forces which have not yet become involved in the mutiny.

A semi-official Congolese newspaper continues its campaign to put the blame for the mutiny on the Belgian mercenaries despite Mobutu's assurances to the contrary and Mulamba's broadcast to Kisangani listeners that the mercenaries "have taken no part in the conflict existing between our soldiers."

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